

Explo Systems, Inc., Site Removal Action

Camp Minden

Webster Parish, Louisiana

April 2014



This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

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Site Background

On October 15, 2012, the explosion of a storage magazine containing explosives in Camp Minden, Louisiana, prompted attention from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Louisiana State Police (LSP) and other responders. The explosion shattered windows in the City of Minden, Louisiana (approximately 4 miles to the northeast), and generated a 7,000-foot mushroom cloud.

Past Actions

On November 27, 2012, LSP identified approximately 10 million pounds of unsecured M6 Propellant and other explosives at Explo Systems, Inc., Camp and began the process of coordinating with other agencies including EPA.

From November 28, 2012, to May 17, 2013, LSP and Explo Systems, Inc., employees secured the M6 Propellant and other explosives within storage magazines at Camp Minden.

Since November 28, 2012, EPA has coordinated and supported the Louisiana Military Department (LMD) of the Louisiana National Guard, LDEQ, LSP, the U.S. Department of Defense/U.S. Army (Army), and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), when LSP notified EPA of approximately 10 million pounds of M6 Propellant at Explo Systems, Inc., Camp Minden,

Louisiana. Specific tasks have included:

- Pursuit of potentially responsible parties for site clean-up
- Participation in bankruptcy court
- Inspection of potentially contaminated equipment for auction
- Participation in and conduct of on-site assessments of explosive hazards

From November 28 to December 7, 2012, the town of Doyline, Louisiana (approximately 400 homes), was evacuated during operational hours. In addition, the Youth Challenge Program (school) at Camp Minden was evacuated, as well as all non-essential personnel and operations at Camp Minden. The volume of unsecured M6 Propellant required a minimum of a 4,000-foot safe distance, due to the risk of explosion. The Webster Parish Jail at Camp Minden followed shelter-in-place procedures.

Current Actions

A total of 97 magazines at Camp Minden are filled to capacity with approximately 18 million pounds of M6 Propellant and other explosive materials from the Explo Systems, Inc., Site. On January 30, 2014, an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was signed by some of the potentially responsible parties to clean up a portion of the explosives on-site.

EPA continues to: coordinate and support the LMD, LDEQ, LSP, Army and ATF; and pursue all potentially responsible parties for site clean-up.

Future Actions

The AOC with potentially responsible parties went into effect to remove and dispose of approximately 3 million pounds of explosive material in January 2014. The Removal Action will begin April 2014,

and will continue for up to 12-14 months. This action will involve repackaging some of the explosive material and making it safe to transport to disposal facilities off-site. Only small amounts will be outside of the magazines at any one time. The explosives will be packaged and loaded in accordance with Department of Transportation regulations. Transport routes will be selected to minimize any danger.

EPA will coordinate and support the LMD, LDEQ, LSP, Army and ATF as well as pursue potentially responsible parties for site clean-up.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Explo Systems, Inc., Site Removal Action, contact:

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On The Web

On the internet, information about U.S. EPA Region 6 and the Superfund Program can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/6sf.htm>

All inquiries from the news media should be directed to the EPA Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.